

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

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R 131142Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7101

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10263

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 1775 DTD 12 JUL 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1775

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BTRA

SUBJ: SAHNI'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. KRISHNA K. SAHNI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DOLPHIN FISHERIES LIMITED, FORMERLY JOINT SECRETARY FOR PETROLEUM (1956-1963) IN THE THEN MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, MINES AND STEEL, WILL BE VISITING THE US FROM MID-JULY TO MID-AUGUST AND IS CALLING ON A NUMBER OF LEADING PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH OIL AND GAS.

2. SANHI IS SELLING MOST OF HIS LARGE FISHING FLEET TO UNION CARBIDE WITH WHOM HE HAS HAD CLOSE DEALINGS OVER THE YEARS. HE ALSO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROMOTING OTHER INDO-AMERICAN BUSINESS VENTURES. IN SUM, HE HAS BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORT OF INDO-AMERICAN BUSINESS COOPERATION IN THE BOMBAY BUSINESS COMMUNITY OVER THE YEARS.

3. HE IS GATHERING MATERIAL FOR A BOOK ON PETROLEUM AND HAS
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EXTENSIVE APPOINTMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES BUSINESS COMMUNITY

PARTICULARLY IN NEW YORK CITY AND CALIFORNIA, LARGELY ARRANGED THROUGH CHASE MANHATTAN AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK WHICH HE HAS OFTEN VISITED IN THE PAST, BOTH IN HIS GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE CAPACITIES. HE ALSO WANTS TO CALL ON PEOPLE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONNECTED WITH OIL AND GAS AND WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING OTHER CONTACTS WITH US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON. SAHNI HAS DENNIS KUX'S NAME AND WILL CALL HIM FROM NEW YORK CITY ON HIS ARRIVAL. HE PARTICULARLY WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT AUGUST 4 WITH ERDA REGARDING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES; SENATE STAFF MEMBERS CONNECTED WITH THE OIL COMPANY DIVESTITURE ATTEMPTS AND THOSE FAMILIAR WITH RECENT REDUCTIONS IN THE DEPLETION ALLOWANCES; AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR REGARDING EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESTRICTIONS ON PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT.

4. SAHNI IS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF JAGANATHAN, THE INDIAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE IMF WHO IS HELPING HIM WITH CONTACTS IN THAT ORGANIZATION AND IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTON. SAHNI DOES NOT INTEND TO CALL ON THE INDIAN EMBASSY IF HE CAN AVOID IT, BUT WILL DO SO IF THAT IS THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH HE CAN MAKE CONTACTS IN US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH HE WISHES. SAHNI LEFT THE GOI AT AN EARLY AGE AFTER A DISPUTE WITH K.D.MALAVIYA THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AND FEELS THAT IF HIS REQUEST FOR HELP IS REFERRED TO THAT QUARTER HE MIGHT BE TURNEDX OFF.

5. CONGEN HAS IMPRESSION THAT SAHNI'S DIFFICULTIES WITH MALAVIYA ARE TECHNICAL IN NATURE AND DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR OUR REFUSING THE MODEST HELP HE IS REQUESTING, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL TO THE CONGEN AND TO THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN BOMBAY. UNLESS EMBASSY FEELS THAT THERE COULD BE ADVERSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN EXTENDING THE COURTESIES SAHNI REQUESTS, RECOMMEND THAT THIS MESSAGE BE SENT ON TO KUX WITH SUGGESTION THAT HE HELP.

COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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